

Burrillville

Recreation Commission

RE: Minutes, October 9, 2007

Present: Cheri Hall, Director Al Low

Kurt Schatz, Chair L. Kevin McDonald

Al Gerew, Vice Chair

Susan Sgambato (Alternate Member)

Alice Lavigne, Secretary

Dave Marcotte

Absent: -----

Excused: Juliette Lopez-Recinos

Guests: Tom Kravitz-Town Planner

Meeting called to order at 6:39 p.m. by Al Gerew, Vice Chair, at the Burrillville Parks and Recreation Offices, 92 North Main Street, Pascoag, R.I.

Minutes of September 17, 2007 Regular Meeting were accepted. Motion to accept made by Alice Lavigne. Seconded by L. Kevin McDonald.

David Marcotte stated on page 4, 1st paragraph, last sentence stated “Dave Marcotte stated he was involved in soccer”. Dave Marcotte made the change from the word “soccer” to read “basketball”. Also, on page 4, 3rd paragraph, Dave Marcotte stated it reads “L. Kevin McDonald” but should be changed from L. Kevin McDonald to “Kevin Fox” throughout 3rd paragraph.

A motion to accept with changes was made by L. Kevin McDonald. Seconded by Dave Marcotte. Motion passed 6-0.

The Director recommended allowing guest Tom Kravitz-Town Planner to move forward on the agenda to speak in reference to the railroad project.

Railroad Project:

Town Planner Tom Kravitz gave informational handouts to each commission member. The printouts are from the GIS system mapping out the entire project, as well highlighting the residential areas that are in close proximity of the project path. A list of town consultants was included. Dave Marcotte asked the width of the railroad path. Tom Kravitz stated it is 66 feet which provided for two tracks. Tom Kravitz reviewed the presentation he had done to “Growth Smart Rhode Island”, an agency that advocates smart growth with Burrillville being one of the case studies, along with Providence. From when the Town Comprehensive Plan was original

written in 1991, it has been unanimous that the plan was to focus on the structure of the town centers and open space.

The focus on growth is currently a priority targeting redevelopment including fuel efficiency and health improvements for the bedroom community of Burrillville. Tom Kravitz explained the five capital improvement concepts analyzed when evaluating each project proposal. A review by Tom Kravitz of current and proposed future projects took place.

This project would include a recreation element including walking, bicycling and even cross-country skiing. Easily people in Pascoag could walk the 15 minute 6,200 foot path to the new Harrisville library.

This would avoid the current dangerous walk on Chapel Street to commute from Pascoag to Harrisville center. The Rhode Department of Transportation is supportive of the project as part of the Northwest Regionalized Bike Path. There is an executed purchase and sale agreement from the owner and a Department of Environmental Management (D.E.M.) grant already awarded for the project to progress. The next steps are to pick a consultant to draft a scope of services including the ideals and concerns voiced at a future public hearing.

The Director stated that when the concerned citizens came to a recent Recreation Commission meeting, one of the major concerns was how wide the proposed path would be and if motorized vehicles would be

allowed access. Dave Marcotte stated the question of this project staying passive in the future or eventually being utilized as an access between Pascoag and Harrisville. Tom Kravitz stated it is for passive use only as per D.E.M grant regulations and would be gated from motorized vehicles.

Tom Kravitz stated he could work with Richard Bernardo of the Department of Public Works to produce a scope of work that would be part of the Request for Proposal (R.F.P.) that could be reviewed at the next Recreation Commission meeting.

The Recreation Commission stated their recommendation is to place a senior center in an existing facility like the new library complex versus a separate building being built. Tom Kravitz recommended a letter be forwarded from the Recreation Commission regarding this Senior Center location recommendation. The Director stated a Senior Center survey was previously compiled and included in a report to the Town Manager and then forwarded to the council.

Kurt Schatz asked for three commission members to volunteer for a subcommittee to prepare a letter regarding the commission's recommendation for a senior center. A subcommittee was formed. The subcommittee requested a copy of the previous survey and report for their review. The subcommittee will draft a letter to be brought to the next Recreation Commission meeting. Upon approval, the Recreation Commission will forward to the Town Manager and

Town Council a proposal that may assist in the development of a Senior Center and its possible location.

A motion regarding the railroad bike path to request three proposals from consultants for the scope of work was made by L. Kevin McDonald. Seconded by David Marcotte. Motion passed 6-0.

A review of the consultant list given to the Recreation Commission from the Town Planner took place. It was suggested by the Recreation Commission for C.M.E., Gates and Leighton, and Beckman Weremay be asked for proposals for the bikepath. The Director will give the three consultant choices to the Town Planner.

Correspondence:

Kevin Fox-Burrillville Youth Basketball Association

The Director reported meeting last Monday evening with Roy Carlson and three other members of the Burrillville Youth Basketball Association to assist in restructuring the league. A second letter was sent to Kevin Fox acknowledging his resignation as President of the league and requested his assistance with the transition. Kevin Fox responded by forwarding budget information to the Director. Roy Carlson will be contacting Kevin Fox to gain access to the accounts. A Board has been formed and new Bylaws will be written.

Good & Welfare:

None to report

Old Business:

Burrillville Youth Basketball Association

Reported under Correspondence

Sub-committee report

No sub-committee report at this time.

Bicentennial DVD

Tabled to future meeting.

Conservation Commission

A joint meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 11, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. with the Recreation Commission and the Conservation Commission. The Director has been attempting to contact the property owner of the land abutting to the Recreation Center.

Reappointment to Recreation Commission

No recommendation received from the Town Council as of yet. The information is still with the Screening Committee.

Snakes Alive Road Race

The road race took place on Sunday, October 7, 2007. Kurt Schatz apologized for not attending due to his father in-laws passing. Seventy-two registered with sixty-seven participating, which is less than the ninety last year. The Director reported that two racers were disqualified due to not running the course correctly and were refunded their registration fee. The Director thanked Recreation Commission members Alice Lavigne and Dave Marcotte for their assistance. The fire departments were very helpful. Thank you letters and shirts were given to all who made the race possible. The profit line was \$1,464 from this year's race.

Branch River Lights

The Director is awaiting one more quote to allow for the awarding to the lowest quote of approximately \$1,300 for repairs to the power source for the Branch River lights. The Branch River lights will be repaired at a later time with assistance being sought from the Pascoag Utility District.

Doors Recreation Center

The Director reported that the Town Manager has given permission to repair (2) doors at the Recreation Center. Funding will be from the Recreation Center account. Quotes were sought for both (2) doors and (4) doors. Only (2) doors are a necessity at this time due to the lack of panic hardware. The other (2) doors will be repaired at a later date.

Burrillville Extended Care

The Director reported that the issue of the authority over budget spending has come up. The Burrillville Extended Care Board has voted to purchase uniform sweatshirts instead of jackets for the staff.

The BEC Board voted to split the cost of (2) new tables to add to the tables previously purchased by BEC for the Callahan School site but understood this would have to be approved by the council since this is not a budgeted item. The BEC Board also voted to donate to the library project but this was put on hold.

New Business:

Holiday Programming

The Director reported the Santa Calling program will take place from December 13th to the 16th this year. The Santa on the Town Common program is scheduled for Saturday, December 1st.

Fall Programming

The Director distributed the October 2007 calendars demonstrating the classes being offered this fall through the department.

Budget Preparation

The Director reported that preparation of this year's budget requests is being compiled. The capital improvement program requests include the Branch River Park tennis courts, Hauser Field playground equipment and Recreation Center roof replacement. If there are any other recommendations, please bring to the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned: Motion made Al Gerew. Seconded by by Dave Marcotte. Meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m. Motion Passed 6-0.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, November 13, 2007, 6:30 p.m., Burrillville Parks and Recreation Offices, 92 North Main Street, Pascoag, RI 02859

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